

Virginia Beach United Methodist Church
Church Leadership Council
August 19, 2015

Doug Knapp called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Those present: Dick Andrews, Lisa Anthony, Janice Cagle, Chuck Cassidy, John Clarke, Chris Everly, Carolyn Fried, Joanne Griggs, Terry Jenkins, Michael Key, Doug Knapp, Heather McEntee, Benson McGlone, Ken Miller, Tracy Miller, Edrie Pfeiffer, Brenda Stahl, Jennifer Vaughan. Also present were Ron Dyer, Rosalee Jewell, Laura Ezell, Sue Shephard, and Mark Holbrook

Chris Everly gave the opening devotion. It was based on 1 Corinthians 12:12, describing how we are one body with many parts. We all experience pain at times, and it can seem to affect every part of our body. All of our body parts complement each other in a remarkable unity, perfectly illustrating God's vision for the church. We can do amazing things when we work together!

Pastor Ralph is absent this evening, as his mother had to be taken to the hospital earlier in the day. Please keep her and Ralph's family in your prayers.

New/On-going Projects:

- 15.36 Church Kitchen Sub- Committee- Doug K. gave a brief report, stating that there had been little progress. However, a sub-committee is being formed to address the issues, and Kim Denton is one of the first to commit- she has a food service background. Doug will be in touch with Pastor Ralph for recommendations on selecting more persons from the staff.
- 15.37 Bishop's Challenge to the Congregation- Edrie P. gave a summary of the Bishop's challenge to the congregation to identify and define what it means to be a disciple. It's easy to focus on creating "members," but it is more important to focus on creating "disciples." We are to think about what it means to be a disciple, and to create a roadmap for doing so. After all, this is part of our mission statement. We are to think about how we can meet his challenge.
- 15.38 Life Group Proposal- Pastor Benson presented a proposal for our church to support LIFE groups (see handout). Bishop Cho said that although many of us became disciples through unintentional processes, we are to form an intentional process for it. LIFE groups are infinitely expandable, due to the idea that most of them meet outside the church. Also, a broad range of groups with common interests can form groups. LIFE groups can also create cross-service relationships, bringing together people from different worship services. By meeting outside the church, it may be easier to form relationships- make a friend, be a friend, invite a friend. LIFE groups can be described biblically, especially in Romans 12. Paul writes this whole chapter in the plural, talking of brothers and sisters instead of single people. While a staff person oversees the group, systems will be put into place to provide leadership development.

Software updates are needed, and Shelby has a module that we would need. Child care is usually not provided, and is the responsibility of the parent(s). The groups may exist for a specified period of time, allowing people to move into and out of various groups depending on their interests and life situations. Funds are not budgeted for LIFE groups at VBUMC currently, but there is only a minimal amount needed. What little is needed will be added to the next budget cycle.

A motion is brought forth to accept the LIFE group proposal as presented. It is voted on and is endorsed by CLC.

15.39 5 Talent Academy- Pastor Benson gave a report on The 5 Talent Academy, which was endorsed in the spring as the church's pledge to increase worship attendance, missions, small groups, giving, and evangelism. If the church invests in LIFE groups, it covers a lot of the components in the 5 T.A. On November 5th, the 5 T.A. is putting on a workshop all about small group life. The deadline for registration is October 26th.

15.40 Financial Strategy Committee Report- Doug K. gave a report on The Financial Strategy Committee, which came out of the Giving Rocket program. The purpose is to discuss strategies to promote a clear financial focus for the church. They have met twice, and have accomplished a great deal. There were 3 main goals that came out of their initial meetings: 1. General Fund \$84K gap, 2. Capital Fundraising, 3. Endowment Fund. There was also a previously completed goal described, which involved creating Reserve Accounts.

A discussion about goal #3, Endowment Fund, took place. Like what is used in colleges and universities, endowments allow your money to work after you have passed away. It is suggested that the current VBUMC Foundation might be merged with a new Endowment Fund. Since the Foundation has its own managing board, this proposal will be tabled until next month when more information will be known. In the meantime, please let Doug K. know if you have any questions or concerns.

15.41 CLC Executive Committee Proposal- Doug K. presented a proposal on behalf of Pastor Ralph calling for the formation of a CLC Executive Committee to work with the pastors to discern the church's vision and mission and to develop recommendations to the CLC. He talked about how group size is directly related to the complexity of making decisions- the larger the group, the more difficult it becomes. It is suggested that the CLC EC be formed to meet monthly, with the larger CLC group meeting quarterly. The EC would consist of 5 chairpersons, Lay Leader, and both pastors, for a total of 8 members. The EC would report back to the CLC for approval of any proposals. Called CLC meetings or email voting could be used if a time sensitive issue arises. Monthly reports could also be emailed to CLC members and thus cut down on the number of monthly meetings required for members and staff. To keep everyone informed, minutes of EC meetings would be kept in the same manner- this needs to be articulated in the proposal.

A discussion was held and several questions were asked. It was suggested that the proposal be tabled until next month's meeting. In the meantime, the members of the proposed EC are encouraged to address some of the issues discussed. Questions and concerns may be directed to the proposed EC members.

Administrative Reports and Other Business:

- 15.42 Stewardship- Doug K. gave a report on Stewardship, reminding CLC that Stewardship Sunday is coming up on October 25th. In the 4 Sundays leading up to the 25th, testimonies will be given by lay persons. There will be an hour and a half long family budget class on October 7th as part of the educational process. This will be presented by Virginia Beach Schools Credit Union, and will be entitled, "Personal Budgeting in a Nutshell."
- 15.43 Finance- Joanne G. gave a report on Finance (see handout). It has been a good year! She is encouraged by the increase in pledged versus unpledged giving. We had a plan to reduce a \$99K shortfall by spending reductions and transferring funds from the parking lot. However, in the end, only \$6,400 was actually needed to be used from parking lot funds to make up the gap. There is also a need to have financial reports on the website. For the current fiscal year, total receipts are \$120,431 and Expenses total \$128,991, for a net deficit of \$8,559. This is much less than the budgeted shortfall of \$24,291 at this point, as expenses are about \$24K less than anticipated.

Joanne then gave a report on the Reserves Policy (see handout). From the Financial Strategy Committee, the need for a Reserves Policy came about. The amounts to be put aside into the designated accounts are to help the church cope when giving patterns may drop due to an unanticipated major natural or man-made emergency. It is suggested that these accounts be formed: 1. Capital Expense Reserve- \$100K and 2. General Fund Reserve- \$250K. The Reserves Policy also describes how balances of parking lot revenues are to be used, first with the Building Capital Program and second with a contribution to the Unrestricted-Undesignated Retained Earnings Account (#30100). The REA is an account that may be used with CLC approval as needed.

A motion is brought forth to accept the Reserves Policy proposal as presented. It is voted on and is endorsed by CLC.

- 15.44 Trustees- John C. gave a report on behalf of the Trustees. No movement has been made on the 17th/18th Street proposal that was previously submitted by Berlin.

John then gave a report on the status of the pew removal/replacement. Oral L. has been in touch with Doug K. about moving forward with the replacement. The proposed idea has been communicated via The Open Door bi-monthly email, church website and published material, and not much feedback has been received. The CLC agreed that due diligence to provide communication about the project has been given on the matter, and it is time to move forward with the project. There being no objection (the proposal was previously approved by CLC), Doug will be in touch with Oral instructing him to move forward.

- 15.45 Second Century Committee- Terry J. gave a report on behalf of the SCC. They met with the architect for the first time and had a good discussion. After his initial presentation, the SCC continued to discuss the project. A second 2 hour meeting with the architect was used to present feedback to him. He will develop another set of options in the near future and present them to SCC. The SCC will be visiting Baylake UMC to look at the multi-purpose space to determine if the design of their facility would serve us well. The June minutes from their meeting will be posted on the website.

15.46 Capital Campaign Report- A report on the Capital Campaign Committee was given by Mark Holbrook (see handout). Since it was determined that a capital campaign run in-house would be too stressful, it was decided by the committee to accept proposals for an outside firm. After 3 presentations from the largest companies, it was decided to use Horizons Stewardship Company in Cabot, Arkansas. The committee was encouraged by HSC's overall approach, looking at the church as a whole instead of just focusing on raising money. They also were the only company to offer a "money back guarantee" in which their fees would be refunded if we are unhappy with their services. HSC will start with a feasibility study, determining if our church could successfully raise the required funds. They are also a "spiritually led" company, and the head of the company, Clif Christopher, has written several books read by leadership such as *Rich Church, Poor Church* and *Not Your Parents' Offering Plate*. Their fees total \$58,600.

A motion is brought forth to accept the Capital Campaign proposal as presented. It is voted on and is endorsed by CLC.

15.47 Pastor's Reports- Pastor Benson expressed the importance of forming the newly proposed CLC Executive Committee. He also expressed that the CLC's job is not to simply "rubber stamp" items, but to make important decisions. Because of this, he encouraged the CLC to support the proposed EC.

There being no more business, Pastor Benson closed the meeting in prayer just before 10:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Key, Secretary